FY '09 Budget Proposes Steady Tax Rate, Building Improvements

By Virginia Myers

City Manager Barbara Matthews' proposed $25.6 million FY09 budget features a $1.2 million increase in property tax revenues and a $4 million increase in expenditures from last year. The higher revenues are the result of an 11 percent increase in property values. Along with maintaining City infrastructure and financial reserves, big ticket expenditures include $2.14 million for design and renovation for the Public Works building, and $1.2 million for renovation of the auditorium in the Community Center, which would then be used for both performing arts and official city meetings.

Matthews proposes that the property tax rate remain constant, at $0.61 per $100 of assessed valuation. Even with no rate increase, property tax revenues increase by $1.2 million compared to FY08, as the property tax base has gone up by $164.8 million.

While recognizing the economic uncertainty registering across the country, Matthews, in her letter of transmittal to the City Council, notes that the City has not felt a significant impact from the downturn. Nevertheless, rising heating and cooling costs and fuel costs for City vehicles, plus cuts to interest on investments and budget limitations at the state and county level were taken into account as she formulated her budget proposal. Chief among her concerns were maintaining infrastructure and the City's vehicle and equipment fleet, and maintaining financial reserves.

Much of the City's spending goes toward staffing, and although there is no increase in the number of employees – and actually a .63 decrease in the number of full-time staff – the budget proposal includes a 14 percent increase in the cost of employee health insurance as well as an increased contribution rate to the Police Employees' Retirement Plan. The latter is affected not only by a higher contribution rate (propose at 31 percent) but also by increased police staffing over the years. A review of employee compensation and position classification is currently underway, and if increases result from that study, funds to cover them would come from the proposed budget's unappropriated reserve.

The most concrete and significant expenditure proposed is the $40.900 to cover $2 million to renovate the City's aging Public Works facility. Since the design process is not complete, renovation costs are only estimated, but the idea is to expand the facility to accommodate an equipment fleet that has increased in both number and size since the facility was built in 1959. The renovation would provide more covered storage for equipment, improve locker room and shower facilities, provide stormwater management on the site and alter some of the buildings to allow more efficient use of space. Opportunities to incorporate green building practices and enhance energy efficiency will be fully explored. Matthews proposes that the project be financed through a general obligation bond, and debt service on such a bond would begin in 2010. Also among the proposals is a $1.2 million renovation of the council chambers, or auditorium, in the Community Center. This would be financed in part by state and federal funds, plus an anticipated contribution from Washington Adventist Hospital. The project would make the space friendlier for performing arts, but maintain its function as an official meeting place for City Council.

Other major items in the budget include a $500,000 contribution to the equipment replacement reserve (half of what a staff analysis indicated would be appropriate, since for several years the equipment reserve was unfunded); $60,000 for a community-wide strategic planning process; $100,000 for a design charrette for the Washington Adventist Hospital site; $55,000 for two speed cameras, which are expected to generate similar revenues; and $100,000 from the sale of City-owned property in FY '08 for the preservation and creation of affordable housing. There is also a $158,055 proposal for street improvements; and $358,651 for construction, maintenance and $358,651 for construction, maintenance
City Council Action

For further information, or to receive a copy of the legislation, contact the City Clerk’s office, 301-891-7267 or e-mail clerk@takomagov.org.

March 24, 2008 - Regular Meeting

First Reading Ordinance 2008-12 was accepted, authorizing the installation of speed humps on the 7600 block of Hammond Avenue

First Reading Ordinance 2008-13 was accepted, authorizing the installation of speed humps on the 1100 block of Merwood Drive

First Reading Ordinance 2008-14 was accepted, amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 16.04 - Stormwater Management, to require all commercial, industrial and institutional development activity to comply with the code and correct the omission of permit fees for multi-family, commercial, industrial and institutional development

Resolution 2008-23 was adopted, establishing the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:
- Resolution 2008-24, recognizing Arbor Day in Takoma Park
- Resolution 2008-25, reappointing Catherine Tunis to the Committee on the Environment

*Only negative votes and abstentions are noted. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at Clerk@takomagov.org.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2008, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 11.1 percent from $1,484,986,366 to $1,649,831,121.

2. If the City of Takoma Park maintains the current tax rate of $0.61 per $100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 11.1 percent, resulting in $1,005,553 of new real property tax revenues.

3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to $0.549, the constant yield tax rate.

4. The City of Takoma Park is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City of Takoma Park proposes to adopt a real property tax of $0.61 per $100 of assessment. This tax rate is 11.1 percent higher than the constant yield rate and will generate $1,005,553 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2008, in the Council Chambers of the Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 for further information.

TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

There are positions available on many City boards, commissions, and committees. Please consider volunteering to serve. Additional information can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or clerk@takomagov.org).

Speak with the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Williams
welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular office hours on Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m. (by appointment only) and 5-7 p.m. (for walk-ins), in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Walk-ins are requested to check in at the reception desk on the main floor.

For appointments, contact Peggie Washington, 301-891-7230 or peggiew@takomagov.org.

Volunteers Needed

Arts and Humanities Commission (three vacancies) 
Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (four vacancies)
Committee on the Environment (seven vacancies, one term expiring June 30; application deadline May 30)
Emergency Preparedness Committee (three vacancies)
Ethics Commission (two vacancies)
Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)
Health Services Impact Committee (vacancies)
Montgomery College Neighborhood Advisory Committee (two vacancies)
Noise Control Board (three vacancies)
Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee (two vacancies)

Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee (one vacancy)
Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (three vacancies)
Safe Roadways Committee (three terms expiring June 30; application deadline May 30)
Tree Commission (one vacancy)
Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee (vacancies)
Staying Trim: Clip That Overgrowth

By Dan Turner, Safe Roadways Committee

We’ve all been there: walking down one of our beautiful Takoma Park streets when a tree branch or shrub swipes you in the face. Spring has arrived and the vegetation in Takoma Park has exploded in new growth. The Safe Roadways Committee would like to remind you to keep your vegetation trimmed from the sidewalks adjoining your property. As the days grow warmer and longer, more children will walk on sidewalks to get to school in the mornings or to play in the evenings. When vegetation partially covers their path, they may be forced into the roadway where the risk of injury from cars increases. In fact, many neighborhoods have organized groups that encourage children to walk together to school. It becomes difficult to keep these groups together when vegetation obstructs the sidewalks.

Children are not the only ones affected. Adults routinely express frustration about the issue to Takoma Park’s Code Enforcement Officer Marjorie Ciccone, who regularly receives complaints about vegetation on sidewalks. The situation is even worse for adults attempting to push strollers along overgrown sidewalks. Additionally, the City, local schools, and the Safe Roadways Committee are looking for ways to increase walking and biking within Takoma Park. Trimming vegetation is one way to encourage this activity.

Not only does cutting back growth contribute to the community, but it is also the law. Section 12.08.03 of the city code reads, “A person who permits any vegetation on private property to encroach on, impede vehicular or pedestrian passage upon, or to overhang within 8’ above any street or sidewalk, or obstruct any traffic control device commits a Class D municipal infraction.” The bottom line is that homeowners are responsible for keeping vegetation trimmed from sidewalks. Overhanging limbs and vegetation must allow an eight-foot high clearance. Likewise, residents should keep excessive leaves and mulch off sidewalks at all times.

Ciccone says her department follows up on complaints beginning with a courtesy notice in both English and Spanish that explains the problem and gives residents seven to 10 days to address it. According to Ciccone, her department then confirms that the problem has been corrected. In one recent case, her office issued an entire city block notices of encroaching vegetation on the sidewalk after receiving complaints. If the problem is not corrected after the courtesy notice, the City is authorized to levy a fine of $100 on each offending residence.

While Takoma Park doesn’t have the resources to launch a ticketing campaign declaring war on rogue vegetation, it remains essential for neighborhoods to understand the issue and to take responsibility in their neck of the woods.

People concerned that cutting back vegetation might violate the city’s strict tree policy have little reason to worry. Takoma Park requires a permit only if a significant portion of a tree’s canopy (5 percent) is being trimmed. The restrictions apply to trees with a circumference of 18.3 inches in the historic district and 24 inches everywhere else. City Arborist Todd Bolton says, “Keeping vegetation off of sidewalks doesn’t really interfere with the tree protection and permitting process directly.” If you are concerned about trimming a tree, contact Bolton at 301-891-7612.

Before your azaleas, shrubs, and tree limbs obstruct a sidewalk near you, act now. Clip it and you might save yourself a ticket. Who knows what else or who else you may save as well?

For more information contact:
Code Enforcement, Marjorie Ciccone, 301-891-7234;
Arborist, Todd Bolton, 301-891-7612
RENT STABILIZATION ALLOWANCE
(Annual Rent Increase) 4.7 percent
Effective July 1, through June 30, 2009

Takoma Park law (City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization) maintains the affordability of rental units in the community by limiting the number and amount of rent increases that may be charged for a specific rental unit. Generally the rent may be increased only once in a given 12-month period and rent increases are limited to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index. The rent stabilization allowance is calculated on an annual basis and applies to all licensed multi-family rental facilities and to all licensed condominium units. The 2008-2009 Rent Stabilization Allowance is 4.7 percent and will be in effect beginning July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Landlords required to comply with Takoma Park’s Rent Stabilization laws cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

Accessory Apartments certified by Montgomery County Rental units leased to tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program Any rental facility that is subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the rent levels of one or more rental units so that they are available only to low and moderate income tenants

Multi-family rental properties and individually-owned condominium rental units are normally subject to Takoma Park’s Rent Stabilization laws, however the following units may be exempt from many of the requirements of rent stabilization. The exemption is not automatic and is subject to the approval of the City.

If you have any questions about the rent on your unit or Takoma Park’s Rent Stabilization law, please contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216.

When Can a Tenant Rent in Escrow?

A tenant wants to know if he can put his rent in escrow because his landlord has failed to respond to a request two weeks ago to repair leaking faucets in his apartment. Rent Escrow is a legal remedy provided through the Montgomery County District Court which allows a tenant to pay his or her rent to the court when a landlord fails to repair conditions which may present a threat to life, health or safety. It may not be used as a remedy to withhold rent because of a landlord’s failure to correct minor defects or housing code violations that are not considered to be serious and substantial defects or conditions. Section 8-211(e) of the Maryland Code notes that serious and substantial defects and conditions include but are not limited to:

- Lack of heat, light, electricity, or hot/cold running water, except when the tenant is responsible for the payment of these utilities;
- Lack of adequate sewage disposal facilities;
- Infestation of rodents in two or more rental properties;
- The existence of lead paint pigment on surfaces within the rental unit;
- The existence of any structural defect which presents a serious and substantial threat to the physical safety of the occupants; or
- The existence of any condition that presents a fire hazard or a serious and substantial threat to the life, health or safety of the occupants of the rental unit.

For a tenant to use rent escrow as a remedy, he/she must first give the landlord written notice of the conditions or defects by certified mail, show that the landlord has actual notice of the conditions or defects, or show that the landlord has received a written violation notice from a government agency about the condition or defect. Once the landlord receives notice of the condition/defect, he/she has a reasonable amount of time to take corrective action. The length of time deemed as reasonable is a question of fact for the court based on the severity of the defect/condition and the danger it presented. If the landlord fails or refuses to make the repairs or correct the condition within a reasonable time period the tenant may bring an action of rent escrow to pay the rent to the court until repairs are made or the dangerous condition is corrected.

Since leaking faucets are not a dangerous condition, rent escrow would not be an appropriate remedy. The tenant should provide his landlord with written notification of the problem and contact the city’s Landlord-Tenant Office by calling 301-891-7215 for further assistance.

By Moses A. Wilds, Jr., LANDLORD-TENANT COORDINATOR

IMPACT

continued from page 1

who nominated Mack for the award. "[He] never seems discouraged by momentary setbacks, inaction, or even when colleagues despair. He works on." At Rolling Terrace, the Padres Latinos en Accion and the Family Involvement Committee needed to try and build a true partnership with parents," says Lane. "This partnership is mandated as part of NCLB and Title I, but sometimes it seems that we follow the letter of the law, and neglect the spirit. The Padres have taken enormous strides to become true equal partners in their children's school experience. They embody the spirit of home/school partnership."

"I know that the ground-work for a true partnership has been laid, and the Padres Latinos en Accion can continue to be a voice for their children." Working as a team, these three women, have created an opportunity for normally marginalized parents to feel empowered, find their voice, and be heard within the decision-making structures of our school," says Victoria Roberts, who nominated the Padres for their award. The Spirit of Silver Spring event will be Thursday, May 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the NOAA Auditorium, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring. Tickets are $50 per person.

For more information go to www.impactsilverspring.org or contact Megan Rawson at megan@impactsilverspring.org or 301-495-3336.

Foreclosure Prevention

How To Monitor Your Expenses or Fees Maintaining your New Home/Condo
New State Sponsored Refinancing Programs

Wednesday, May 14, 2008
7:00pm - 8:30pm

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

The Importance of Pre-Purchase Counseling To Register, Call (301) 891-7222 or e-mail LindaW@takomagov.org
Employees recognized for length of service

Takoma Park held its annual celebration to recognize its long-term employees on April 3. Following are recipients of recognition awards.

FIVE-YEAR RECIPIENTS
Nicholas Carter, Police
Sara Daines, Housing and Community Development
Martha Johnson, Housing and Community Development
Denise Pullet, Police
Patrick Rittenhouse, Communications
Gregory Wolff, Police

Takoma Park Newsletter
May 2008

UPCOMING Events

Spring is for Poetry

Takoma Park's streets, public places, and school grounds will once more bloom with poster-size poems this spring. Sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, "Spring for Poetry" includes 34 poems, all individually designed as 13 x 19-inch color posters by typography students at the School of Art and Design at Montgomery College. The poems are framed and mounted on steel street sign poles "planted" along Carroll and Maple Avenues, on public school grounds, at bus stops and in parks.

City residents last year were enthusiastic about the city's poetry walk. "What a delight Spring for Poetry has been for me — I re-route my walks and reread the poems," Jane Williams-Grube wrote. "How much we love the poetry walk," wrote Dina Borzekowski. "My 11-year old daughter and 7-year old son are so familiar with the posters that when they were moved around, they could tell you where the poems had been previously."

The poems of "Spring for Poetry" range in time, from Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman to the late Sterling Brown, Maryland poet Myra Sklarew, and U.S. Poet Laureate Charles Simic. Several poems by Latin American poets — Marjorie Agosín, Miguel Hernandez, and Alfonso Stormi — are in the original Spanish with English translations. Among other U.S. poets are John Berryman, Elizabeth Bishop, Sterling Brown, Gregory Corso, Langston Hughes, Grace Paley and Reed Whittemore, former Maryland and U.S. Poet Laureate.

Among the many who have given their time and talents to "Spring for Poetry" are Professor Andrea Adams and her students at Montgomery College and the Takoma Park Department of Public Works, which is installing the poles. A list of all the poems and locations will be available at the library and community center and on the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland website (www.fptm.org). The poetry posters will be up through summer and rotated every two months.

Annual House and Garden Tour — May 4

The 35th Takoma Park House and Garden Tour, sponsored by Historic Takoma, will take place from 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday, May 4, rain or shine. Its theme, "First Stop Takoma," focuses on more than a dozen houses, gardens and other buildings in the Takoma D.C. neighborhood. The tour includes historic homes, as well as the first branch of the DC Public Library. Advance tickets, $15, are available at the Takoma Park Silver Spring Coop, American Craft, Now and Then, Market Kitchen and the Culture Shop. Tickets the day of the tour, $20, are available at the D.C. Public Library, 416 Cedar Street NW where advance ticket holders can also get a brochure with property locations and descriptions for the self-guided tour, locations of the properties on the tour and an informative description.

See www.historictakoma.org or call 301-270-2831 for more information.

Trash Old Electronics Just Doesn’t Compute, Recycle Them Instead!

Takoma Park will host an Electronic Equipment Recycling Event on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. behind the Library at Maple and Philadelphia Avenues. Bring your old or unwanted electronic equipment to be refurbished or recycled. Recycling electronic equipment keeps hazardous materials out of the environment. We will accept the following items: computers and all their related equipment (CPU, monitor, printer, keyboard, modem, mouse, speaker) cameras, TVs (non console type), electric typewriters, fax machines, answering machines, telephones, VCRs, radios, stereos, CD and tape players, scanners, copiers, fax machines and other small electronic equipment.

Most electronic equipment contains hazardous metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium and chromium. These materials need to be handled properly and not released into the environment.

For questions or additional information call the Public Works Department 301-891-7633 or visit www.cityoftakomapark.org.

Takoma Park will host an Electronic Equipment Recycling Event on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. behind the Library at Maple and Philadelphia Avenues. Bring your old or unwanted electronic equipment to be refurbished or recycled. Recycling electronic equipment keeps hazardous materials out of the environment. We will accept the following items: computers and all their related equipment (CPU, monitor, printer, keyboard, modem, mouse, speaker) cameras, TVs (non console type), electric typewriters, fax machines, answering machines, telephones, VCRs, radios, stereos, CD and tape players, scanners, copiers, fax machines and other small electronic equipment.

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**RECREATION**

**MAY ACTIVITIES**

**Tremendous Trips**

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '08)

Sign up for one trip or pre-register for them all and get a discount. All trips are from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and meet at the Takoma Park Community Center.

**When:** Monday - Friday, June 16 - June 20
(Pending the last day of school)

Mon., June 16: National Aquarium
Tues., June 17: Water Park
Wed., June 18: Port Discovery
Thurs., June 19: Water Park and Mini Golf
Fri., June 20: Rollerskating and Wheaton Regional Park

**Fee:**
- T.P. Res.: $20/trip
- Non-Res.: $25/trip

Register for the whole week:
- T.P. Res.: $90
- Non-Res.: $115

Camp TAKOMA

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '08)

 Plenty of opportunities to discover arts and crafts, games, swimming, nature activities, special events, and trips to various fun locations. The fee includes all field trips, special events, and a camp t-shirt. No camp July 4.

**When:** Mon. - Fri., June 23 - Aug. 8

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Before and after care available

**Location:** T.P. Comm. Ctr., 7500 Maple Avenue

- Fees/weeks 1, 3-7:
  - T.P. Res.: $110/week
  - Non-Res.: $125/week
- Fee week 2:
  - T.P. Res.: $95/week
  - Non-Res.: $110/week

Special offer! Get week #2 FREE if enrolling for all seven weeks.

2008 Before and After Care Options

Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. The following camps may enroll:

Camp TAKOMA, Extreme Horizons, Takoma Park Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball Camps, Basketball and Soccer camps.

**Extreme Horizons**

Grades 6 - 8 (as of September '08)

Try your hand at rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, and swimming. In addition, each week we will have a trip to a theme park. Fee includes a camp t-shirt, all field trips and special events. One day a week the camp will return at 8 p.m. No camp July 4.

**When:** Mon. - Fri., June 23 - August 8

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Before and after care available

**Location:** T.P. Comm. Ctr., 7500 Maple Ave.

- Fees/weeks 1, 3-7:
  - T.P. Res.: $180/week
  - Non-Res.: $200/week
- Fee week 2:
  - T.P. Res.: $165/week
  - Non-Res.: $185/week

**Family Day Trips**

Trips are geared for families with children 6 years and older. One family member must be 18 years or older. We will meet in the parking lot of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Advance registration is required. Minimum enrollment must be met by RSVP date. Bringing a snack is recommended.

**Trip: Boys’ Bear Country, Gettysburg, PA**

Come see what all the craze is about! Make your own bear, visit the bear nursery, eat a down home country lunch. Fee includes transportation and lunch. Bring money to purchase bears and other souvenirs.

**When:** Sat., May 31

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Fee:**
- T.P. Res.: $10/person
- Non-Res.: $15/person

**Need to register by May 23.**

**Mocha Moms and Cappuccino Caretakers**

Looking for moms, dads and nannies to hang out with and chat? Want to get out of the house while the kids get to play? Join us every Thursday for coffee and tea in the Azalea Room while the children participate in a playgroup.

**When:** Tues., ongoing - June 10

**Time:** 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

**Location:** Azalea Room, Community Center

**Fee:** Free, but registration is required

**COUNSELOR IN TRAINING PROGRAM**

Grades 9 and 10 (as of September ’08)

Interested in gaining knowledge working with young children? Learn from professional camp employees at all levels, get trained in CPR and First Aid and receive on-the-job training. Fee includes CPR and First Aid certification, on-the-job training, special events, speakers and field trips. Must attend pre-training week and work at least two weeks over the summer.

Those who complete two years of experience may be eligible for employment at the age of 16 as a junior counselor. Service Learning Hours can also be earned during this time. Pick up an application from the Recreation Office. Please contact Karla Kelley 301-891-7283 or Carey Antoszewski 301-891-7233 for more information. Deadline for applications is June 6, 2008.

**Mandatory Pre-Training: June 16 - 20**

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Location:** T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

**On the Job Training: June 23 - August 8**

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Fee:**
- T.P. City Residents $150
- Non-Residents $200

**Stop by the playgrounds, go bird watching. A map will be available for suggested walks. Meet the lobby of the T. P. Community Center. In case of rain meet in the Azalea Room.**

**When:** Thurs., ongoing - June 12

**Time:** 10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Fee:** Free, but registration is required
Y.E.S. Basketball Program

Come out and join the one and only Takoma Park “Youth Exposed to Success” Basketball League! Teams will be guaranteed eight games, and every player will receive a Y.E.S League jersey. Trophies will be handed out to the playoff champions. Every player must attend one workout in order to be drafted. NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE LAST WORKOUT. All workouts are held in the Piney Branch Elementary School Gym.

Grades 5-6
Workout Date: Mon. 6/2 - 7/21
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Grades 7-8
Workout Date: Tues. 6/3 - 7/22
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Grades 9-10
Workout Date: Wed. 6/4 - 7/23
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Grades 11-12
Workout Date: Thurs. 6/5 - 7/24
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Fee: T.P. Res. $25
Non-Res. $35

T-Ball Program

Join us and learn baseball fundamentals right here in Takoma Park’s T-Ball Program. Participants will be assigned to individual teams after registration and will be called by the League Director or Coach after team assignments are made. All participants will meet at Hodges Field on Saturday May 31 at 9 a.m.

When: Sat., May 31 - July 19
Time: 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Location: Jeque Park, Spring Park Hodges Field
Fee: T.P. Res. $35
Non-Res. $40

Y.E.S League / T-Ball League Volunteers/Needed!

The Recreation Department is looking for coaches and volunteers for the Y.E.S Youth Basketball League, and the Youth T-Ball League. If you are interested and would like to hear more about these opportunities, please contact Matt Poorman by phone 301-891-7282, or by e-mail at MattP@takomagov.org.

Roadtrips Ages 11 - 18

Roadtrips takes teens on adult supervised trips to local destinations. Trips are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month and selected non-school days.

May 9 Baltimore Inner Harbor
May 23 Paint ball
June 13 Atlas Theatre “Step Afrika”
June 27 Nationals Baseball Game
July 11 Miniature Golf
July 25 Dave and Busters

Time: 6 - 9 p.m.

Transportation provided from:
T Zone T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
and T.P. Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Fee: Varies by trip

Takoma Park Teens Pitch in as Volunteers

By Karla Kelley

Recreation Manager, Teen Programs

Do you know what gleaning is? Well the teens involved in Takoma Park Recreation Spring Break Community Service Learning Camp now not only know what gleaning is but actually experienced the art of gleaning sweet potatoes one morning during their spring break.

Gleaning is the act of collecting left over crops from farmers’ fields after the fields have been commercially harvested. The gleaned vegetables the day we volunteered were 1,100 pounds of sweet potatoes. Teens bagged the vegetables and they were made ready for the trip back to D.C. Central Kitchen in downtown Washington, D.C., to create meals for the homeless.

Takoma Park teens had a busy week. In addition to harvesting sweet potatoes for the homeless, they prepared meals at D.C. Central Kitchen, painted water fountains and railings at the Tidal Basin with the National Park Service, delivered and prepared food at Food and Friends for people living with HIV/AIDS, and helped to clean and organize offices at the Wright House, a psycho-social treatment center for youth with HIV/AIDS. Finally, in an effort to focus locally, they prepared the Takoma Park Senior Club newsletter, Silver Foxes, for mailing.

Youth in Montgomery County Schools are required to complete more than 50 hours of community service to fulfill requirements toward graduation. Participation in Takoma Park Community Service Learning Camp provided 20 hours of service in four days. The teens showed a true commitment in following through by showing up ready to work every day.

Twelve youth 13 - 18 years of age from Takoma Park participated in the camp this year. Right, they were made ready for the trip back to D.C. Central Kitchen; below, they pose with pediatric AIDS/HIV care staff at the Wright House; a psycho-social treatment center for youth with HIV/AIDS. Finally, in an effort to focus locally, they prepared the Takoma Park Senior Club newsletter, Silver Foxes, for mailing.

Youth in Montgomery County Schools are required to complete more than 50 hours of community service to fulfill requirements toward graduation. Participation in Takoma Park Community Service Learning Camp provided 20 hours of service in four days. The teens showed a true commitment in following through by showing up ready to work every day.

When asked to name one thing they will do in the next year to help their community, some of the responses were, “I will volunteer to help people,” “I will try to volunteer and help out in our or other people’s community.” They then picked up trash on the street. “Each teen that participated seemed more committed to volunteering in the future.”

The week of hard work ended with a fun trip to Kings Dominion, in Richmond, Virginia. The kids and staff had a great week giving back to others and having some fun while doing it. The teens enrolled in the camp unanimously agreed that they feel there is a positive relationship between community service and solving social issues in our communities.

Takoma Park Recreation teen programs will offer community service learning opportunities throughout the year and during school days out.

COMMUNITY CENTER SPRING HOURS

Game Room
Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Senior citizens only
2:30-5:30 p.m. Ages 7-12
7:30-9:30 p.m. Ages 13-19
Saturday 1-5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2-9:30 p.m.

T-Zone (Teen Lounge)
Monday through Friday 2:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday 1-5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2-9:30 p.m.

Community Center Closed
May 24, 25 & 26

Hours subject to change
Membership is required
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7290
tprecreation.org

Takoma Park Teens spent a week volunteer- ing around the community during spring break this year. Right, they pose with pediatric AIDS/HIV care staff at the Wright House; below, they help paint water fountains at the Tidal Basin for the National Park Service.

Photos by Karla Kelley

White and Corrine Bell provided supervision, support and leadership for the teens during the week.

Many of the agencies we visited need ongoing volunteers, in addition to those wishing to volunteer during holidays and special events. All of the agencies we volunteered with asked us to come back and volunteer again.

A pretest was given to the teens to determine their understanding of the importance of community service. At the beginning of the week, eight teens responded “strongly agree” when asked if they felt community service improves society. At the end of the week, after experiencing four very different agencies 11 teens felt that community service improves society. Many of the teens felt more committed to volunteering in their community after seeing people in need and listening to the various agencies talk about their missions. Each agency representative spoke to the group about the clients they serve as well as how important volunteers are to their agencies in order for them to be successful.

When asked to name one thing they will do in the next year to help their community, some of the responses were, “I will volunteer to help people;” “I will try to volunteer and help out in our or other people’s community;” “I will pick up trash on the street.” Each teen that participated seemed more committed to volunteering in the future.

The week of hard work ended with a fun trip to Kings Dominion, in Richmond, Virginia. The kids and staff had a great week giving back to others and having some fun while doing it. The teens enrolled in the camp unanimously agreed that they feel there is a positive relationship between community service and solving social issues in our communities.

Takoma Park Recreation teen programs will offer community service learning opportunities throughout the year and during school days out. For information on community service and teen recreation programs, please call Karla Kelley at 301-891-7283.
As of Mar. 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 139 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 691 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 830 this year. Totals for 2007 were 241 and 680, respectively, for a total of 921, representing a decrease of 91 incidents.

A Few Safety Tips Regarding Electricity

Use electricity wisely and safely to avoid dangerous shocks, fires or explosions. Every year in the United States, more than a thou-
sand people are killed and thousands more injured in electrical fire or shock accidents. When a fuse blows, don’t just replace the fuse. First, find out the cause of the prob-
lem and take care of it. Always have a fresh fuse or open the cir-
cuit breaker and then remove the plug. Otherwise, remove the fuse or open the cir-
cuit breaker and then remove the plug.

Firehouse REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

The Most Painful Burn Is The One You Could Have Prevented!

More than 4,000 children are scalded by tap water every year. Scald burns are most common among young children. And yet, these accidents are so easy to prevent if you’ll just follow these simple steps.

1. Before putting your child in the bath tub, test the water by moving your hand around in the water to make sure it’s not too hot.
2. Never leave your child alone, not even for one second. If you need to answer the phone or doorbell, take your child with you.

Remember, tap water scald burns can be as serious as burns from hot liquid spills from a stove top. And tap water burns usu-
ally cover a larger area of the body.

Make sure your water heater is set no higher than 120 degrees. Use a cooking thermometer to check the water tempera-
ture in your bath tub. If it’s hotter than 120 degrees, turn down your water heater, or call a plumbing contractor to turn it down.

If you live in an apartment building, have the building maintenance department check it for you.

Water doesn’t have to be at the boiling point to harm a child. Infants are plump and cuddly, but their tender skin is a lot thinner than a grown up’s, and can be scalded more quickly.

So protect your loved ones. Use common sense when dealing with scalding hot water. Be safe - not sorry!

What You Can Do To Prevent Falls...

Falls are not just the result of getting older. Many falls can be prevented. Falls are usually caused by a number of things. By changing some of these things, you can lower your chances of falling.

Four things YOU can do to prevent falls:
1. Begin a regular exercise program.
2. Make your home safer.
3. Have your health care provider review your medicines.
4. Have your vision checked.

The TPVFD is Still Looking for Mem-
bers

Recently, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department voted into membership, Josh Raeben and Thomas Lamole. If you would like to join them, contact Mike Livingston, Membership Committee at the fire station, 301-270-8209.

What is an emergency?

When a person cannot wake up, is hurt, cannot move, or there is smoke or fire in the home or building. That’s when you need help!

What can you do in an emergency?
1. Be calm.
2. Dial 9-1-1.
3. Tell the emergency person what is wrong. Speak clearly.
4. Answer all questions.
5. Don’t hang up until the other person tells you.
6. Never make prank calls to 9-1-1.

POLICE Briefs

Up-to-date Crime Info Available

Want to keep up with where and what sorts of crime events are happening in the City? The TPPD crime ana-
lyst puts out all sorts of information to the community, through email alerts, weekly summaries and press re-
leases to newspapers and other media outlets. You can go to the police bulletin page of the City’s web site to see all crimes occurring in the City, from drunk driving stops to armed robbery; weekly summaries highlight police department activity including crime prevention, training and administrative news. There’s even a map of where crimes have occurred. Go to takomaparkmd.gov for more information. To sign up for email alerts, contact the police department at 301-270-1100.

Two Officers Promoted to Sergeant

Effective March 23, 2008, two Takoma Park Police of-
cicers were promoted to the rank of sergeant. They are Richard Poole, of the Criminal Investigations Division, and Tina Smith, Supervisor of Patrol Team 1. Chief Ronald Ricucci wishes Sgt. Poole and Sgt. Smith good luck in their new positions. A promotional ceremony will be announced in the near future.

Street Light Outages Patrolled

After citizens expressed concern over broken street-
lights, City Manager Barbara Matthews asked police officers to note streetlight outages while they are on patrol, record the pole numbers and give the informa-
tion to her office. Both the city manager’s office and the police department report these outages to PEPCO or the County.

The City is pushing to get PEPCO to repair the out-
eges and to be more responsive in general to our outage needs. One of the challenges is that PEPCO does not inform the city when a light is fixed, so we do not, at the moment, have a good way to close the loop. Matthews is in contact with the representatives of PEPCO to put a better reporting indicator in place.

Meanwhile, here is what residents can do if they no-
tice a street light is out:

Get the pole number and the street address. The pole number is very important. If it is a wooden pole, it is a PEPCO street light. If it is a steel or fiberglass pole, it is a County street light.

If the broken light belongs to PEPCO, send an e-mail to City staff member Peggye Washington (peggyew@ takomagov.org) with the information. She will in turn request PEPCO to fix the outage.

If you want to report the outage directly to PEPCO, you can also visit www.PEPCO.com/home/requests/
/outage/streetlight/outagereport/default.aspx or call 1-877-PEPCO62 (1-877-737-2662).

If it is a Montgomery County light, you can visit http://gis.montgomerycountymd.gov/ims/lights/sub-
mitform.htm or call 240-777-2190. The more people sending in a street light outage repair requests, the more likely it is that the light will be repaired quickly.

When the light is repaired, please again e-mail Peg-
gye Washington with the pole number. If the light does not come back on in two to three weeks, repeat the steps given above.

This may seem a bit cumbersome, but at the moment, it is the best way to assure that the street light outages get repaired.

Going on Vacation?

Remember you can have the police come check on your vacant house while you are away.

Call 301-270-1100 for more information.

Officer of the Year Announced

By Catherine Plevy

The Awards Committee met on March 21, 2008, and considered a variety of factors before the final selec-
tion of the 2007 Officer of the Year: D/PFC. Thomas Black.

Black was selected because of his overall outstanding performance of duties as an officer and his dedication to the Department in numerous additional tasks, including his new role as detective in the Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU). His record of arrests was significant, covering a vari-
ety of charges.

Black took the Oath of Office with the Ta-
coma Park Police De-
partment on October 24, 2005, after suc-
cessful completion of the Prince George’s County Municipal Police Academy. He successfully complet-
ed his field training on January 24, 2006.

On April 11, 2007, he was promoted to Pri-
ivate First Class.

Black currently works in the Tacti-
cal Enforcement Unit (TEU) of the Takoma Park Police Department, assisting, among other things, in its newly formed plainclothes unit. His team-
work, persistence and efforts to take felons off the streets, to ensure the safety of others, is outstanding.

The Committee conducted extensive discussion, consid-
ering a few officers as candidates, who performed well in 2007. The committee will continue to review other officers and nominations for additional awards.
The Takoma Park Police Department K-9 Unit

Takoma Park has a special "officer" in the police department with four legs. Diesel, who joined the force four years ago, is a five-year-old black German shepherd from Hungary, and the only canine member of the force. Diesel’s handler and partner, Officer Ernest Atwell, has been with the Takoma Park Police Department for four years. The partners are new to one another — Diesel was owned previously by another officer — but the new relationship is an easy one. Good thing — sometimes a previously owned dog won’t take to a new handler. Diesel, who like all local police dogs, lives with his handler, will remain part of Atwell’s family until one or both of them retire.

The canine unit has been up and running for approximately 15 years. Residents may remember Shadow, who retired in 2008 for health reasons. As with Shadow, the police department pays for Diesel’s food and other maintenance costs like health care; the initial cost of bringing him on board was approximately $16,000, which includes training for the dog and his handler.

Takoma Park police believe the cost is well worth it. Diesel has already been responsible for numerous arrests in both the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County. Diesel is especially good at at sniffing out drugs, evidence and looking for suspects who are running from a police officer. According to Pfc. Atwell, for every step a person takes, they lose approximately 30,000 dead skin cells. That, coupled with a suspect’s adrenaline and perspiration, are what canines zero in on when in pursuit of a suspect.

Canines are capable of many things that humans are not. A dog’s sense of smell is almost 50 times more sensitive than a human’s. A dog can sniff out criminals, drugs, weapons and bombs, in situations where a human officer would have to search every inch — a very dangerous task. A dog can stand outside a suspect vehicle and smell the scent of drugs coming from a glove compartment. In addition to sensitivity, a dog’s sense of smell is precise. It can discern a specific scent even when there are dozens of other scents around. And when a conflict arises, dogs are faster and stronger than most humans, able to catch a fleeing criminal and clamp down with powerful jaws to apprehend the suspect until other officers arrive. Equally important is the impact that just a growl from the dog, with those sharp teeth, can have on a suspect.

Recently, Atwell and Diesel showed just how effective canine police work can be during a demonstration for the Brownies. While Diesel waited in the police cruiser, Atwell had one of the children walk through the backyard, through some dense brush, over a fence, around a tree and then drop an object. Atwell then retrieved Diesel from the vehicle, outfitted him with his ballistic vest and then commanded him to find the object.

Diesel took off with his nose to the ground, walking almost the exact path that the child did, and found the object. However, Diesel did not pick up or touch the object. He merely laid next to it signaling his partner that he found what he was commanded to find. This is very important to evidence handling so as not to taint a crime scene.

Diesel will be tracking down real criminals on a regular basis, responding on an as-needed basis to requests from county agencies like the Montgomery County Police as well as serving in his “own” Takoma Park police force. Watch for him as he rides in the police department car marked “K-9.”

TAKOMA PARK IS COOKIN’

The annual Tastes of Takoma took place on April 13 this year, with plenty of good food, the famous Acro-Airs gymnastics team, community information and health services booths, and a host of musicians to entertain the crowd.

Photos by TP Communications Office
Friends of Library to Hold Book Sale

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library used book sale will be held on the Library lawn on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. These twice-yearly book sales are a major source of funding for the Friends, and all proceeds go to the Library in the form of gifts that benefit public services. Here are wonderful opportunities to find quality books at bargain prices, while you visit with your neighbors. Children's books, cookbooks, literary fiction and nonfiction in paper and hardback - there are books to satisfy all tastes and interests. If you are interested in helping the Library by volunteering to work a couple of hours the day of the sale, contact Ellen Robins at ellen@takomavgo.org. Include a daytime phone number. Community service hours are available for students. The Library will accept book donations that are boxed, of general interest and in good condition through May 14.

“Goosebumps” Author Returns to the Series

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Attention, all “Goosebumps” lovers! After an eight-year hiatus, “Goosebumps” author R.L. Stine has just published the first two books in a related new series called “Goosebumps HorrorLand.” (Note: we’ve got copies at the library).

Recently, I had a chance to talk to Stine by telephone in my capacity as the children’s book reviewer for Scripps Howard News Service. Here’s the story that resulted:

For a man who makes his living scaring children, R.L. Stine seems like a pretty mild-mannered guy. Known as Bob to his friends, Stine has a relaxed manner and an easy laugh. It’s hard to believe that this is the same man whose “Goosebumps” series has frightened millions of kids around the world. But it’s important to remember that he’s also made them laugh themselves silly with his outrageous, often gross humor.

That’s Stine’s trademark: blending humor with fear in a way that makes it impossible for kids to stop turning the pages until they’ve reached the end of his books. That formula has brought fame and fortune to Stine, whose 87-book “Goosebumps” series have sold more than 300 million copies and been translated into 32 languages. In addition, the “Goosebumps” television series has been a hit with young viewers, while the official “Goosebumps” website - www.scholastic.com/goosebumps - receives more than two million page views each month, according to Scholastic.

Eight years ago, however, Stine, 64, decided he needed a break from “Goosebumps,” and focused on writing other series for kids, including a series called “Rotten School.” Kids liked that series, but still clamored for more “Goosebumps.”

“Everywhere I went, kids asked me ‘When are you going to write new ‘Goosebumps’ books?’ Stine said in a recent telephone interview from his New York home. ‘I thought that if I could do something different with the series, I would give it a try.’

So Stine created “Goosebumps HorrorLand,” a new, 12-book series that connects with a special Internet site, www.enterhorrorland.com. The first two books, “Revenge of the Living Dummy” and “Creep From the Deep” (Scholastic, $5.99 each), have just been published. Two more books will be published later in the summer.

Each of the books contains two separate stories. The first part of each book is a standalone tale featuring a couple of normal kids caught up in some terrifying adventures. In the second part of each book, the same character heads off to a mysterious theme park called HorrorLand, billed as a place “where nightmares come to life.”

None of the kids know why they’ve been invited to HorrorLand, but figure it looks like a great place to scare themselves silly. The kids soon realize, however, that the scary stuff is for real and that the theme park is populated by some of the meanest villains from the original “Goosebumps” books.

The HorrorLand sections of each book are part of a serial, so readers won’t know the entire story until Stine publishes Book 12 in 2010. Meanwhile, as each book in the “Goosebumps HorrorLand” series is published, readers can check on the website for further pieces of the story. The website will also offer readers other HorrorLand material not included in the books, including several Internet-only stories plus interactive games. Fans of “Goosebumps” are sure to love the new books, which show Stine at the top of his form as he spins stories filled with creepy characters, graveyards, scary noises, cliff-hanging chapter endings and loads of wacky humor. The new series already has gotten a starred review from Publishers Weekly, which called it “deliciously chilling.”

“It’s fun to create these kinds of creepy worlds,” Stine said. “And I get a wonderful response from my readers. We’re also doing something that we couldn’t do in the original ‘Goosebumps’ - we have a huge website for this new series.”

Writing comes naturally to Stine. Born in Columbus, Ohio, Stine began writing at the age of two. He had a short story published when he was 16. His first novel, “Fear Street” was published in 1989.

Stine has received several awards for his work, including the Pennsylvania Governor’s Award for Children’s Literature and the Pennsylvania Library Association President’s Award. He is a member of the National Society of Writing Professors and a member of the American Library Association.

Despite his success, Stine has not given up on his吓 childhood ambition of becoming a professional baseball player. He was once a top minor league pitcher in the St. Louis Cardinals organization.

“Goosebumps” continues on page 11.

library Briefs

- OUR TWIWEEN BOOK CLUB will meet for the last time this school year on Friday, May 23, from 4-5 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center’s Rose Room. Our book will be “Hoot” by Carl Hiaasen. We’ll discuss the book and then have a “make your own ice cream sundae” party. Registration is limited to 12 students in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade.

- THANKS to the Friends of the Takoma Park Md. Library, we’ll have copies of the book available for check-out for every participant. To register, please call 301-891-7259 or email takomag@gmail.com (put tween in the subject line).

- NEED A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT DUE AT MID-NIGHT? No problem - just take out your Takoma Park Md. Library card and log onto our website: www.city-oftakomapark.org/library. We’ve got tons of information available to our patrons 24-7! For more information, pick up one of our new brochures outlining exactly what you can find via our electronic resources. The brochure was created by Christine Turner, who has spent this spring doing an internship at the library as part of her work towards a master’s in library science from the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland.

- IF YOU HAVEN’T VISITED THE CHILDREN’S ROOM FOR A WHILE, come by and see the transformation made by our artistic shelves, Wanda Hsiung and Deborah Erwin. We’ve got flowering “trees” blooming everywhere, and the wall space over the picture books is bursting with colorful signs of spring. Wanda and Deborah now are hard at work coming up with signs/pictures that will make it easier for young patrons to find books about various subjects, from dolphins to baseball.

- REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 2 FOR OUR POPULAR “LAPSI” PROGRAM, which will take place on the four Wednesday mornings in June from 10-10:30 a.m. The program is geared for babies ages newborn through 12 months, and includes songs, rhymes and some simple stories. We have space for 15 babies and their grown-ups. Please register by calling 301-891-7259 or emailing takomag@gmail.com (put lapsit in the subject line, please).
**GOOSEBUMPS**

continued from page 10

age of nine when he found an old typewriter in his family's attic. He carried it down to his room and began writing stories and joke books.

After graduating from Ohio State University (where he edited the campus humor magazine), Stine headed to New York. He made a living writing joke and humor books for kids before publishing his first horror novel, a young adult thriller called "Blind Date," in 1986. He followed that best-seller with a teen series called "Fear Street" before launching "Goosebumps" in 1992. Other Stine series include "Dangerous Girls," "The Nightmare Room" and "Mostly Ghostly." Altogether, Stine has sold more than 400 million books.

"Goosebumps" books were a gateway into reading. In fact, while some adults have long decried the "Goosebumps" books as too formulaic and low brow, many librarians and other children's book experts see the series as a great way to get kids interested in reading. In fact, Stine has gotten thousands of letters from readers and their parents who say the books have been a gateway into reading.

"That's the biggest thrill - meeting and hearing from so many kids who enjoy my books," he said.

**Graphic Novels a Fresh Reading Experience**

Kids are crazy for them, but graphic novels are new territory for many parents, who view them as merely "comics" starring superheroes. The best graphic novels, however, are far more than comics and can offer a richly-textured reading experience, complete with pictures. Even adults familiar with such important adult graphic novels as "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi and Art Spiegelman’s Pulitzer Prize-winning "Maus" may not know that graphic novels of similar quality are being published for kids and teens.

In any case, graphic novels are one of the fastest growing categories in book publishing, book selling and - yes - library circulation. Come learn more about them at a special library program on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. Library Assistant Dave Burbank, a graphic novel expert, will offer a primer on how blending words with illustrations creates a unique literary form. He and Karen MacPherson, children's/teen librarian, will give a brief overview of the history of graphic novels (including non-fiction selections), discuss their popularity, and explain the library's four categories for graphic books: comics; manga; graphic novels for all ages; and graphic novels for older readers.

There will also be a preview of the latest trends in graphic novels, thanks to Burbank's April trip to the Third Annual "Comic Con" in New York City, where 60,000 publishers, book sellers, librarians and others gathered to discuss graphic novels. Finally, all participants will leave with a reading list of suggested graphic novels for various ages, plus information about how they inspire interest in reading among reluctant readers.

Although this program is aimed at adults (both parents and other interested folks), schoolage kids also are welcome to attend. Please register by calling 301-891-7259 or emailing takomag@gmail.com (put graphic novels in the subject line, please).

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**Budget, Energy Audits, Azalea Awards**

**Air in May**

May is Budget month at City Hall, so special Budget Worksessions will be broadcast live on most Thursdays in May in addition to City Council meetings on Monday nights.

In case you missed their live presentations, replays this month will include Saving Energy at Home from April 23, and the Azalea Awards from April 26.

New music this month includes releases from the Folk Festival including Jawbone, Washington Revels, Lea and Sonia. New Jazz Band Brawl performances released this month include Speak Low and Kendra Holt Trio.

**Takoma Snapsots in May will include:**

- Tastes of Takoma Highlights
- Arbor Day in Takoma Park
- Old Town Spring Clean-up
- Art Exhibit: Human Concept

Community and neighborhood groups may submit non-commercial notices regarding meetings or special events to City TV for inclusion on the bulletin board. City TV is carried on Channel 13 on Comcast and RCN, and Channel 28 on the Verizon system. Many programs, including Council meetings and Snapsots, are available for on-demand viewing from the City website as well. Be sure to visit City TV’s award-winning web page at www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable for specific program information.

All Council meetings and Snapsots episodes are also available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for $15 (pick up) or $18 (mail). Some programs are also available on DVD. Call 301-891-7259 or send an email to: cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.

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**CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - MAY 2008**

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<td>Déjà vu: Takoma Music Revealed</td>
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<td>Terra Nova</td>
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<td>NASA Programming</td>
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<td>Coffeehouse</td>
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<td>7:30 PM City Council Meeting (LBD)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Coffeehouse</td>
<td>City Council Meeting (Replay)</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 PM Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Government Focus</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 PM CarliNation</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Special Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 Midnight Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>City Council Meeting (Replay)</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 AM Road to Recovery</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
<td>Déjà vu: Takoma Music Revealed</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Programing subject to change without notice. CITY TV is carried on Channel 13 on Comcast and RCN and channel 28 on Verizon.
and repair of storm drains, inlets, channels and ditches.

Other significant projects from the general fund, which covers day-to-day operational activities, include $25,000 to support the Crossroads Farmer’s Market and $14,700 for marketing and analysis to improve the New Hampshire Avenue corridor; and $25,000 for software that will allow residents to pay bills on-line.

Besides the general fund, the budget includes the stormwater management fund, the community center fund, and the special revenue fund, which tracks grant-funded projects. Among special revenue projects are the Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) program in the special revenue fund, which tracks grant-funded projects. Among special revenue projects are the Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) program in the special revenue fund, which tracks grant-funded projects.

In her budget proposal, Matthews notes the discussion of still-unfinalized City Council priorities – namely, sustainability, livable community, and engaged, responsive and service-oriented organization. These possible priorities are partly a reflection of feedback from the 2007 resident survey, and Matthews points out a number of places where the budget responds to that survey: resident requests for more police visibility, for example, are addressed through a new traffic team and bike patrol. Sustainability could be increased through a tree ordinance review, increased green purchases and a possible green roof on the deck over the police parking area; and an indication that many residents rely on the newsletter for information led to a proposal for a twelfth edition of the publication (in January, when traditionally the newsletter has not published) and the occasional 16-page issue (rather than the usual 12 pages).

City Council will consider the budget proposal over the next two months, and will finalize their budget by July 1. Residents will have opportunities to comment at public hearings (see box).

### FY 09 Budget

**Combined Expenditures by Fund**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$23,104,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater Fund</td>
<td>$358,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Revenue Funds</td>
<td>$979,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center Fund</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditures by Department**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>$2,485,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>$5,772,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>$3,974,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>$1,347,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Community Development</td>
<td>$1,644,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>$439,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>$671,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Departmental</td>
<td>$1,630,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>$3,661,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$1,055,416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of Proposed Expenditures, FY 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Budgeted FY 2008</th>
<th>Estimated FY 2008</th>
<th>Proposed FY 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>$19,941,108</td>
<td>$18,863,048</td>
<td>$23,104,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater Management</td>
<td>356,084</td>
<td>358,869</td>
<td>358,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Revenue</td>
<td>1,372,770</td>
<td>995,747</td>
<td>979,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>46,161</td>
<td>46,161</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>$21,716,123</td>
<td>$20,263,825</td>
<td>$29,642,553</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The variance between FY 2008 and FY 2009 is primarily attributable to increased personnel costs, design and renovation of the Public Works facility, and the renovation of the Council Chambers/Auditorium.

**FY09 Budget Hearings**

**Public Hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate**

**Public Hearing on the Proposed FY09 Budget**

Monday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.

Community Center Auditorium

Residents are urged to attend the hearings to express their views. Written comments addressed to City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, will also be made part of the record. For further information, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 (or e-mail JessieC@takomagov.org).